

Dear professor Zhores Alferov,

Dear president Kutzler,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the distinguished Russian scientist, the winner of Nobel Prize in Physics 2000 and the Member of the Russian parliament, Mr. Zhores Alferov who is awarded with the title of honorary professor of the Technical University of Berlin.

The role of a personality in science, the role of such a personality who can think in the out-of-order way, can produce new ideas and prove their rightness is really significant. These people are followed by their students and colleagues. It is important because scientific researches operate across state borders and are able to join scientists from different countries. Diplomacy can solve problems through hard, long-lasting and sometimes disputed negotiations while science can often tackle obstacles easily and naturally. Researchers possess their own universal language familiar to every scientist all over the world. So, it is a great pleasure for me to see that the Russian academician is honored here in Berlin where he has friends and scientific followers in one of the most famous European university. It is a clear evidence of the fact that the Russia – Germany cooperation is becoming more diverse and multifaceted.

Contacts between our countries in the fields of science and technology tend to be intensified even in comparison with other spheres of the bilateral cooperation which also demonstrate the very good dynamics. The new intergovernmental agreement on the scientific and technical cooperation was signed last year in Munich during the interstate consultations in the presence of the Russian President and the German Federal Chancellor. This agreement is known to increase the opportunities and broaden the ways for direct scientific and technical cooperation

between scientific groups, universities and institutes in our countries. It creates mechanisms for promotion of scientific and staff exchange.

The course for modernization of our economy in particular in the areas of technology and innovation was proclaimed by President Dmitry Medvedev as a priority for our country. Mechanisms to stimulate national Research&Development and ways of their accelerated introduction to the industry are being created now and begin to be implemented. Scientific ideas and new technological solutions instead of raw materials must become the source of the progress in the Russian economy.

The first changes in this field have been made in international scientific cooperation. Russia strives for participation in creation and operation of modern European scientific infrastructure which is crucial for solving scientific problems especially in fundamental sphere. The Russian Government decided to take part in building and further operation of the most advanced scientific plants: DESY in Hamburg and FAIR in Darmstadt. Activities at these plants are sure to advance the national R&D and allow our scientists to participate in the European scientific cooperation, events and publications.

It is Mr. Zhores Alferov, the honorary professor of the TU Berlin, who is known to stand for special emphasis on science and it's correlation to economic demands. Owing to his considerable efforts and interested engagement as the Member of the State Duma committee on science and high technologies some necessary changes and positive developments take place in Russia including the sphere of international scientific cooperation.

I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Zhores Alferov on this honorable title and thank president Kutzler as well as the whole university board for the attention to the Russian science and scientists.